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4                   **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-49**  
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6           **A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF**  
7           **THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA,**  
8           **SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 141 AND SENATE BILL 310**  
9           **AND CALLING ON THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO**  
10          **INFORM THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS OF ITS**  
11          **DESIRE TO PLACE A STATUE OF ENVIRONMENTALIST**  
12          **MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS OR CIVIL RIGHTS**  
13          **LEADER MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE, OR OTHER**  
14          **APPROPRIATE FLORIDIAN IN THE CONGRESSIONAL**  
15          **COLLECTION REPRESENTING FLORIDA AND TO**  
16          **REPLACE THE STATUE OF CONFEDERATE GENERAL**  
17          **EDMUND KIRBY SMITH, CURRENTLY ONE OF TWO**  
18          **STATUES REPRESENTING FLORIDA IN STATUARY**  
19          **HALL IN WASHINGTON, DC; PROVIDING FOR AN**  
20          **EFFECTIVE DATE**  
21

22           WHEREAS, in 1864, in accordance with legislation sponsored by Representative Justin  
23 Morrill, Congress invited each state to contribute two statues of prominent citizens for  
24 permanent display in a room in the U.S. Capitol, which was renamed National Statuary Hall;  
25 and  
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27           WHEREAS, in 1914, the State of Florida gave a statue of John Gorrie, considered the  
28 father of air conditioning and refrigeration, to the National Statuary Hall Collection; and  
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30           WHEREAS, in 1922, the State of Florida gave a statue of Confederate General Edmund  
31 Kirby to the National Statuary Hall Collection; and  
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33           WHEREAS, in 2000, an act of Congress (2 U.S.C. § 2132), permits states to provide  
34 statue replacements and repossess the earlier one; and  
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36           WHEREAS, as of 2015, six states (Kansas, California, Alabama, Iowa, Michigan, and  
37 Arizona) have replaced statues; and  
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39           WHEREAS, in 2015, several Florida members of Congress wrote a bipartisan letter to  
40 the leaders of the Florida Legislature requesting that the statue of Confederate General Smith be  
41 removed from Statuary Hall; and  
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43           WHEREAS, according to the Tallahassee Democrat the leaders of the Florida Legislature  
44 expressed a willingness to replace the statue of Confederate General Smith with another  
45 prominent Floridian; and  
46

47           WHEREAS, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was an important environmentalist in the 20<sup>th</sup>  
48 century who made improvements in Florida's quality of life; and  
49

1 WHEREAS, her most influential work was the book *The Everglades: River of Grass*  
2 (1947)", which redefined the popular conception of the Everglades as a treasured river instead  
3 of a worthless swamp; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, in 1933, President Bill Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of  
6 Freedom, the highest honor given to a civilian; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, in 1987, she was named a great Floridian by the State of Florida; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, Douglas was inducted into the National Wildlife Federation Hall of Fame in  
11 1999; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2000; and  
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15 WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection named its headquarters  
16 in Tallahassee after her in 1980; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, the Conservation Association established the Marjory Stoneman Douglas  
19 Award in 1986, that honors individuals who often must go to great lengths to advocate and fight  
20 for the protection of the National Park System; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, she was honored with a visit from Queen Elizabeth II in 1991; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, instead of gifts and celebrations on her birthday, Douglas asked that trees be  
25 planted that resulted in over 100,000 planted trees across the state; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, Marjory Stoneman Douglas would be the 10<sup>th</sup> woman in National Statuary  
28 Hall Collection should the Florida Legislature select her as a statue replacement; and  
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30 WHEREAS, Mary McLeod Bethune was an important civil rights leader and educator in  
31 the 20<sup>th</sup> century who made improvements in the quality of life in Florida; and  
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33 WHEREAS, she also served as an advisor to five of the Presidents of the United States.  
34 Calvin Coolidge and Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her to several government positions; and  
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36 WHEREAS, she established the school that would eventually become Bethune-Cookman  
37 University in Daytona Beach; and  
38

39 WHEREAS, she was a recognized leader in promoting equal opportunity and helped  
40 establish the National Council of Negro Women and United Negro College Fund (UNCF); and  
41

42 WHEREAS, Bethune was awarded the Spingarn Medal in 1935 by the National  
43 Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and  
44

45 WHEREAS, she played an important role during World War II as the assistant director of  
46 the Women's Army Corps; and  
47

48 WHEREAS, Mary McLeod Bethune was the only black woman to participate at the  
49 founding of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945; and

1  
2 WHEREAS, in 1973, Mary McLeod Bethune was inducted into the National Women's  
3 Hall of Fame; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, in 2002, she was named a great Floridian by the State of Florida; and

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7 WHEREAS, in 1974, approximately 250,000 people attended the unveiling ceremony of  
8 a statue of her in Lincoln Park in Washington D.C.; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, in 1985, the US Postal Service issued a stamp in Bethune's honor; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, in 1991, the International Astronomical Union named the Bethune Patera on  
13 planet Venus in her honor; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, in 1994, the National Park Service acquired Bethune's last residence and  
16 designated it as the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, schools have been named in her honor in Los Angeles, Chicago, San Diego,  
19 Dallas, Palm Beach, Florida, Moreno Valley, California, Minneapolis, Ft. Lauderdale, Atlanta,  
20 Philadelphia, Folkston and College Park, George, New Orleans, Rochester, New York,  
21 Cleveland, South Boston, Virginia, and Jacksonville, Florida; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, Mary McLeod Bethune would become the first African-American in  
24 National Statuary Hall should the Florida Legislature select her as a statue replacement; and

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26 WHEREAS, the statue of Confederate General Smith has already had 93 years to  
27 represent Florida and can now be moved to another appropriate location; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, in 2009, Alabama swapped its statue of Confederate soldier Jabez Curry for  
30 one of humanitarian Helen Keller.

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33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE  
34 VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

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37 **Section 1.** The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are true and correct and hereby  
38 ratified and confirmed by the Village Commission.

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40 **Section 2.** The Village Commission supports Florida House Bill 141 and Florida  
41 Senate Bill 310, and the Florida Legislature should replace the statue of Confederate General  
42 Edmund Kirby Smith in National Statuary Hall Collection with Marjory Stoneman Douglas or  
43 Mary McLeod Bethune or another appropriate Floridian.

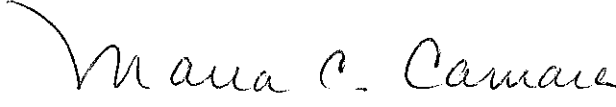
44  
45 **Section 3.** The Village Clerk is hereby directed to transmit this resolution to the  
46 Florida Speaker of the House, the President of the Florida Senate, the Mayor and County  
47 Commissioners of Miami-Dade County, and all elected municipal offices in Miami-Dade  
48 County.  
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1        **Section 4.**      This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

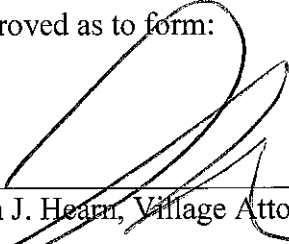
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3        PASSED AND ADOPTED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2015.  
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10      David Coviello, Mayor

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12      Attest:

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18      Maria C. Camara, Village Clerk

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20      Approved as to form:

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23        \_\_\_\_\_  
24      John J. Hearn, Village Attorney  
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**The foregoing resolution upon being  
put to a vote, the vote was as follows:**

Mayor Coviello: Yes  
Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes  
Commissioner Jonas: Yes  
Commissioner Ross: Yes  
Commissioner Watts: Yes